

KULYKOL-TALDYKOL LAKE SYSTEM, Kazakhstan

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 7.04.2007

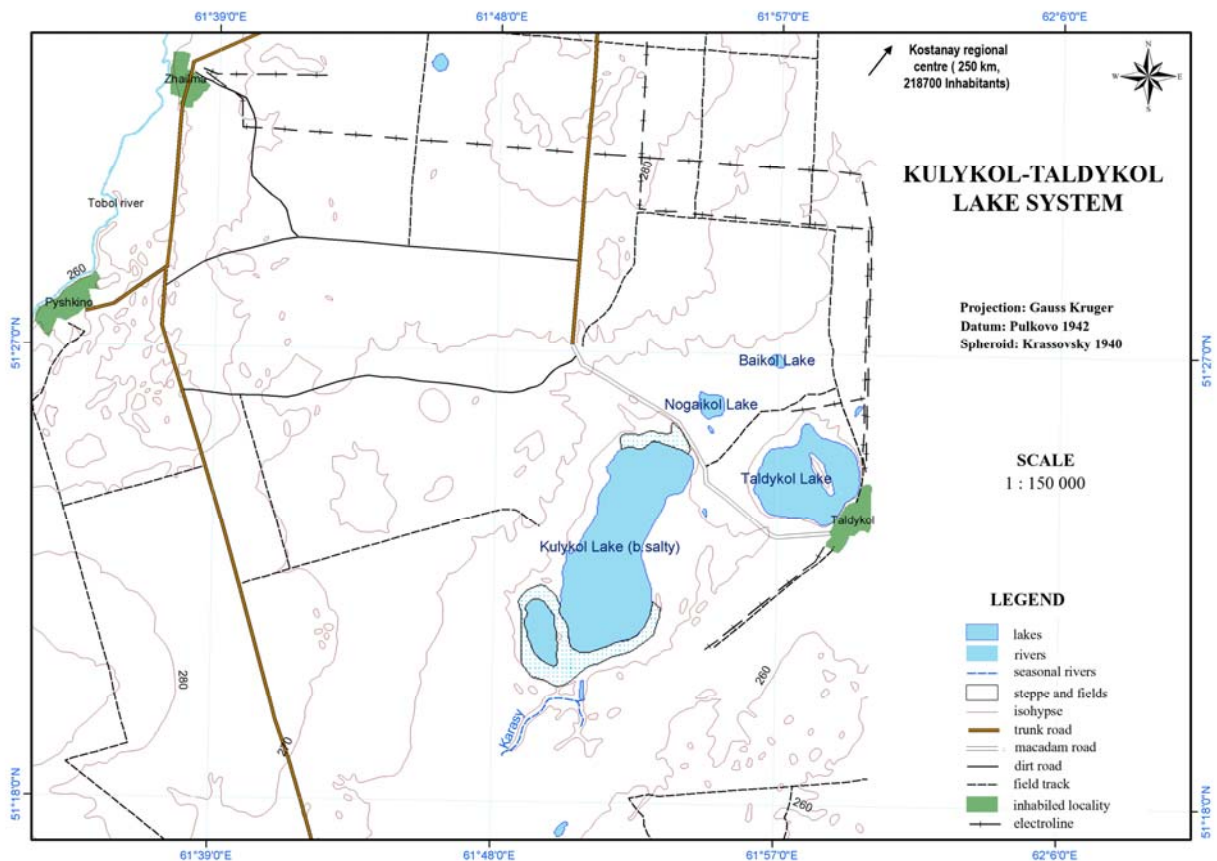
COUNTRY: Kazakhstan

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES: 51° 23' N, 61° 52' E

ALTITUDE: min – 246.9 m, max – 260.4 m above sea level.

AREA: The area of the site within the boundaries of the lake basins with coastal ecosystems and areas between the lakes is 8,300 ha. The area of the lakes with high water level is about 4,530 ha, including Kulykol Lake – 3,370 ha, Taldykol Lake – 1,120 ha.

MAP:



OVERVIEW: These are fresh water lakes, but when the water level lowers the salt concentration increases. The water bodies have cyclically changing hydrological regimes and typical border-curtain or mosaic thick reed. In the periods with high and average water levels they are places for mass nesting and moulting of waterbirds and wetland birds, and are one of the most important place for staging of *Anseriformes*, especially geese, *Rallidae* and *Lemicolae* during migrations.

WCASN CRITERION AND QUALIFIERS:

Criterion 1: Site's Importance for Siberian Crane

Sub-criterion 1.2: *The site has held one or more Siberian Cranes during the last 50 years, but there are less than five records during the 10 last years.*

It's a stop-over site of the Siberian Cranes during migration. During the last 10 years there were two real sightings of Siberian Cranes: one bird was registered at Kulikol Lake in September 1997, and pair of birds was observed between 18 and 20 August 2003 in the area of Kulykol Lake at a hollow.

Qualifier 1: Site's importance for other crane species

The site is important for other crane species, 2-3 pairs of Eurasian Cranes (Taldykol Lake) and 1-2 pairs of Demoiselle Cranes regularly nest here. About one thousand Eurasian Cranes stop in Kulikol Lake during the period of autumn migration. In some years (2000) there are groups of non-breeding birds in the summer time.

Qualifier 2: Site's importance for other waterbird species

Sub-qualifier 2.1: *The site regularly supports 20,000 or more migratory waterbirds during migration periods.*

Kulikol-Taldykol Lake System is one of the most important stop-over places for migratory waterbirds. When the water level is high up to 450,000 birds stop at the lakes in the site during autumn migration. In 1996-1999 at the peak of migration in the beginning of October from 86 to 160 thousand geese were recorded at one count, 57.0- 65.9% of which were White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*), 8.4-10.1% - Greylag Geese (*Anser anser*), 2.2-7.0% - Lesser White-fronted Geese (*Anser erythropus*) and 23.5-25.9% - Red-breasted Geese (*Branta ruficollis*) (P.Tolvanen & P.Pynnonen 1998; P.Tolvanen, K.Litvin & P.Lampila 1999; P.Tolvanen, T.Eskelin, T.Aarvak, G.Eichhorn, I.Oien, & E.Gurtovaya 2000).

Dominating duck species are Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Pintails (*Anas acuta*), Common Teals (*Anas crecca*) and also Coots (*Fulica atra*), in some years - Ruddy Shelducks (*Tadorna ferruginea*) - up to 10-12 thousand birds, Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*), Smews (*Mergus albellus*). In the period of spring migration the main migrants are ducks, the most numerous ones are Tufted Ducks and Common Pochards (*Nettion rufina*) - 43.0 % and 21.5 % of the total number of birds, Common Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*) are usual - 2.1 %, of other groups - seagulls: Black-headed Gulls (*Larus ridibundus*) - 23.6 %, Little Gulls (*Larus minutus*) - 2.1 % and Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*). Also mass migration of snipes is usual: Ruffs (*Phylomachus pugnax*), Little Stints (*Calidris minuta*), Dunlins (*C. alpina*), Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) and others, as well as gulls, terns, Eurasian Cranes. In some years there are Great-crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*) and Black-necked Grebes (*Podiceps nigricollis*). In September 2005 the concentration of birds included 314 species, in 2006 - 77,600 birds.

Sub-qualifier 2.3: *The site regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of migratory waterbird.*

During autumn migration the site is critically important for the Lesser White-fronted Goose - about 44% of the Siberian-Caspian population (1998) stopped in 1998-2002, in 2003-2006 - more than 1%, and the Red-breasted Goose - more than 47% population in 1998, in 2005-2006 - more than 4%. Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelicanus crispus*) (27-39 pairs) nest in the years with favorable ecological conditions.

WETLAND TYPES (according to Ramsar classification):

Inland wetlands

N Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks

P Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes floodplain lakes

Ts Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils; includes sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes.

JURISDICTION:

a) Territorial jurisdiction: Kazakhstan, Kostanay Oblast, Kamystin District

b) Functional jurisdiction: Forestry and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Address: 25, Abay Prospect, Astana. Tel/Fax: +7 (7172) 32-82-33.

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY:

Hunters and Fishermen Regional Society: 181, Gogol Str., Kostanay, tel./fax (3142) 535617. Chairman – A.E. Kovalenko

NAME AND ADDRESS OF COMPILER:

Eugeniy A. Bragin, Senior scientific employee of the Naurzum National Natural Reserve. Address: apt. 12, 165, Taran Str., Kostanay, Kazakhstan. Tel/Fax: +7 (3142) 548-532. E-mail: naurzum@mail.ru